

A B S T R A C T

The invention relates to a process for  
5 bringing about a permanent connection between at least  
two components, one of which components is obtained by  
moulding of a thermoplastic elastomeric material,  
characterized in that the component is subjected to a  
treatment comprising the following steps:

- 10 a. stretching of the component of thermoplastic  
elastomeric material
- b. relaxation of the component subjected to step (a)  
at ambient temperature
- c. placement of the component obtained sub (b) at the  
15 location of the desired connection in the object
- d. exposure to an increased temperature of at most  
about 20°C below the melting point of the  
thermoplastic elastomer.

Application of the process of the  
20 invention, in particular during step (d), produces a  
shrunk connection which provides a permanent seal under  
tension.

The invention may be applied for many types  
of connections and seals, for example body plugs,  
25 shrink-on sleeving, sealing rings, etc.  
Especially suitable, particularly in automotive  
applications, are copolyether esters.